

VZCZCXYZ0030
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLO #1156/01 1350700
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 150700Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2316
INFO RUEHPL/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 0141
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/HQ US PACOM HONOLULU HI
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHDC
RUVNSAO/NAVSUPFAC DIEGO GARCIA
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 001156

NOFORN
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 05/13/2029
TAGS MARR, MOPS, SENV, UK, IO, MP, EFIS, EWWT, PGOV, PREL
SUBJECT: HMG FLOATS PROPOSAL FOR MARINE RESERVE COVERING
THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO (BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY)
REF: 08 LONDON 2667 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard Mills for reasons 1.4 b and d

1. (C/NF) Summary. HMG would like to establish a "marine park" or "reserve" providing comprehensive environmental protection to the reefs and
Protecting the BIOT's Waters

2. (C/NF) Senior HMG officials support the establishment of a "marine park" or "reserve" in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), which i

3. (C/NF) Roberts iterated strong UK "political support" for a marine park; "Ministers like the idea," he said. He stressed that HMG's "timeli
Three Sine Qua Nons: U.S. Assent...

4. (C/NF) According to Roberts, three pre-conditions must be met before HMG could establish a park. First, "we need to make sure the U.S. gove
designating the BIOT as a marine park could, years down the road, create public questioning about the suitability of the BIOT for military purp

5. (C/NF) Ashley Smith, the Ministry of Defense's (MOD) International Policy and Planning Assistant Head, Asia Pacific, who also participated
...Mauritian Assent...

6. (C/NF) Roberts outlined two other prerequisites for establishment of a marine park. HMG would seek assent from the Government of Mauritius,
...Chagossian Assent

7. (C/NF) Roberts acknowledged that "we need to find a way to get through the various Chagossian lobbies." He admitted that HMG is "under pres
Je Ne Regrette Rien

8. (C/NF) Roberts observed that BIOT has "served its role very well," advancing shared U.S.-UK strategic security objectives for the past seve
population is the reason that the BIOT's uninhabited islands and the surrounding waters are in "pristine" condition. Roberts added that Diego C
Administering a Reserve

9. (C/NF) Roberts acknowledged that numerous technical questions needed to be resolved regarding the establishment and administration of a mar
BIOT: More Than Just Diego Garcia

10. (C/NF) Following the meeting with Roberts, Joanne Yeadon, Head of the FCO's Overseas Territories Directorate's BIOT and Pitcairn Section,

11. (C/NF) Yeadon stressed that the exchange of notes governed more than just the atoll of Diego Garcia but expressly provided that all of the

12. (C/NF) Yeadon dismissed the APPG as a "persistent" but relatively non-influential group within parliament or with the wider public. She sa

13. (C/NF) Yeadon told Poloff May 12, and in several prior meetings, that the FCO will vigorously contest the Chagossians' "right of return" l

Comment

14. (C/NF) Regardless of the outcome of the ECHR case, however, the Chagossians and their advocates, including the "All Party Parliamentary Gr
opinion. Their strategy is to publicize what they characterize as the plight of the so-called Chagossian diaspora, thereby galvanizing public c

15. (C/NF) Comment Continued. We do not doubt the current government's resolve to prevent the resettlement of the islands' former inhabitants,
Visit London's Classified Website: [http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit ed_Kingdom](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit_ed_Kingdom)
TOKOLA